



OFFICE OF THE
LITTLETON BOARD OF APPEALS
LITTLETON, MASSACHUSETTS 01460

received
7/18/08

Petitioner: Unitarian Church
19 Foster Street
Case No: 748A
Date Filed: June 2, 2008

The Littleton Board of Appeals conducted a public hearing on June 19, 2008, at the Shattuck Street Municipal Building for a variance from Section 173-36 of the Zoning Bylaw to allow for a second free-standing sign for the property at 19 Foster Street, Littleton, Massachusetts. Notice of the hearing was given by publication in the Littleton Independent, a newspaper published in Acton and circulated in Littleton, on June 5 and 12, 2008, and by mail to all abutters and parties in interest. Present and voting: Sherrill R. Gould, Chairman, John Cantino, Julia Adam, Jeff Yates, Members, and Rod Stewart, Alternate. Present and not voting was Cheryl Hollinger, Alternate.

The Petitioner was represented by the Reverend Fred Small, minister of the Unitarian Church, and by Judy White from the Women's Alliance of the church. Petitioner is seeking a variance that will allow construction of a free-standing sign measuring approximately 8 feet tall by 50 inches wide in front of the church building. The church has two existing signs: one free-standing sign called "The Wayside Pulpit" as well as a wall plaque on the front of the building. The Wayside Pulpit, tucked back into plantings, has historical significance to the site and is visible primarily to pedestrian traffic; the wall plaque is small relative to the size of the building. Neither is situated or sized to catch the attention of vehicular traffic. Petitioners stated that the location of the property and the speed of traffic going past represented a hardship in that the name of the church is not visible from the street. They also represented that the sign needs height to be visible above parked cars along the street in front of the church. A site plan of the property was presented showing the location of existing signs as well as the proposed location for the additional sign. Included in the presentation was a graphic representation of the proposed sign.

A discussion ensued regarding minimizing the height and size of the sign given its close proximity to the sidewalk and to the street. Petitioner was agreeable to reducing the size of the proposed sign. No illumination of the sign other than existing lighting is planned.

FINDINGS: The Board found that the Applicant satisfied the requirements of uniqueness of the building and that there would be a hardship to the applicant and to the public if signage was not sufficient for vehicular traffic to readily identify the name of the church. The Board found that the variance could be granted without substantial detriment to the public good and without substantially derogating from the intent or purpose of the by-law.

DECISION: The Board voted unanimously to GRANT a Variance from the requirements of Section 173-36 to allow a second free-standing sign at 19 Foster Street to be located approximately as depicted in the plan presented to the Board. The sign area is restricted to 16 square feet, including the bump-out area in the design presented to the Board, and sign height is not to exceed 6 and ½ feet from the ground to the peak. The color scheme is to be as presented to the Board.

Appeals, if any, shall be made pursuant to G.L. 40A, Section 17 and shall be filed within twenty days after the date of filing of this Notice in the office of the Town Clerk.

Signed: Julia A. Adam
Julia Adam, Clerk

Date: 7/17/08

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I hereby signify that twenty days have elapsed since the filing of the above decision by the Board of Appeals and that no appeal concerning said decision has been filed or that any appeal that has been filed has been dismissed or denied.

True Copy Attest: _____
Town Clerk, Littleton, Massachusetts

Date: _____